Fixing the Maximum Limit of the Ministries

4957. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Questions 130 and 3616 given in Rajya sabha on the 24th February and 27th April, 2000, respectively and state whether Government would incorporate a provision in the Constitution fixing the maximum limit of the Ministries in both the Central and the State Governments as part of its effort to rein in expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Rules for the allocation of business of the Government are made by the President in terms of the powers conferred by Clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution for proper transaction of business of the Central Government. In case of State Governments such rules are made by the Governor in terms of Clause (3) of Article 166 of the Constitution.

The business of the Central Government is transacted in various Ministries/Departments as per the allocation of business specified in the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. The number of Ministeries/Departments is thus based on the administrative convenience at given point of time. The creation/abolition/reorganisation of the Ministries/Departments is the prerogative of the Prime Minister.

Sharp Fall in the Integrity of Civil Servants

.4958. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sharp Decline in Civil Servant's Integrity : CVC" as reported in the Pioneer on the 16th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether there has been a sharp fall in the integrity of civil servants in the country;

(c) the factors responsible for such a sharp fall in the integrity of civil servants; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No studies have been conducted in this regard.

(d) The Government is fully alive to the need to provide clean administration and to eradicate corruption at all levels of public services. The drive against corruption is a continuing process and the policies are modified from time to time in order to make them more responsive to the changing environment. All the Anti-corruption Agencies of the Government viz. Internal Vigilance set up in the various Ministries/ Departments, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Vigilance Commission are making all possible efforts to curb corruption in public service. The Government has recently taken the following initiatives for eradication of corruption:—

(1) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill to confer statutory status to the Commission has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 20, 1999. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

(2) The Central Bureau of Investigation launched special drives recently to detect cases of disproportionate assets, to organise traps to apprehend public servants while demanding and accepting illegal gratification and conduct surprise check at sensitive places.

(3) The Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide para 3(v) of Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No. 371/20/99/AVD.III dated 4.4.1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in Administration, electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks, sensitising public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on Vigilance Management in Public Sector Banks and Public Sector Undertakings.

(4) The Government set up a working group on "Right to Information and Transparency in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.

(5) Recognising that an important aspect of Preventive Vigilance is to ensure transparency in public administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizen's Charters and Facilitation Counters have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up.

CVC approval for Promotion of Senior Officers

4959. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that promotions of senior officers in Government are made on the approval given by the Vigilance Commission and if so, what are details of the posts which require CVC approval; and

(b) the number of cases referred to CVC during the last three months and how many of them have since been approved and the reasons for not approving the remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS "WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view (a) above.

Police Powers to Central Vigilance Officers

4960. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI R.S.GAVAI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJMOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to stale:

(a) whether Government are proposing to give police powers to all Central Vigilance Officers in the country to implement the traps for corrupt officials effectively and legally, as recently stated by the Central Vigilance Commissioner;

(b) whether the prevalent system is impending progress of investigation of corruption cases;

(c) when such a bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament and what are the details thereof;